
Departmental Mandate

The Department's mandate, as set out in the *Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Act*, RSC 1985, c. E-22, is to:

- conduct all diplomatic and consular relations on behalf of Canada;
- conduct all official communications between the Government of Canada and the government of any other country and between the Government of Canada and any international organization;
- conduct and manage international negotiations as they pertain to Canada;
- coordinate Canada's economic relations;
- foster the expansion of Canada's international trade;
- coordinate the direction given by the Government of Canada to the heads of Canada's diplomatic and consular missions and to manage these missions;
- administer the foreign service of Canada; and
- foster the development of international law and its application in Canada's external relations.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the *Export and Import Permits Act*, RSC 1985, c. E-19, which authorizes the government to control and monitor the transborder flow of specified goods, and for the *Special Economic Measures Act*, 40-41 Elizabeth II, c. 17, which authorizes the government to apply economic sanctions in response to a serious threat to international peace and security.

The Department also provides administrative support to other government departments with personnel abroad.